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THE  
STRANGER'S GUIDE,

OR

THE DAGUERREOTYPE

OF

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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COMPILED BY  
E. S. STREETER.

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C. ALEXANDER, PRINTER.

1850.



## P R E F A C E .

Author of this little work having had some experience in traveling, and finding it very difficult in some instances to find that source of information so desirable to a traveler when he enters a strange city, has come to the conclusion that a new type of Guide to the City of Washington would be a very desirable work ; and having had two years' experience as a resident, feels himself somewhat prepared to prepare such a work to the public ; and in doing so, he takes this opportunity to acknowledge his obligation (for a part of the force of information embodied in this little work) to several persons, Robert Mills, Architect ; Watterson's Guide, and the Board of the Corporation. He therefore presents it to the public, hoping it will meet with that approbation which its nature demands.



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# THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

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The seat of the Government of the United States, is located on the Maryland shore of the Potomac River, in latitude  $38^{\circ} 52'$  north, longitude  $00^{\circ}$ , and called after the name of its founder, *General George Washington*, who in pursuance to an act of Congress passed on the 16th day of July, 1790, (then held at New York) as President, selected this site for the temporary and permanent seat of the *Federal Government of the United States*; and had the city surveyed and laid out on a magnificent plan, suitable for the Capital of a great and powerful nation. This location lies in a part of what was once *Charles County* in the *State of Maryland*. By an act of the Maryland Legislature, a tract of land not exceeding ten miles square, was ceded to the United States for the seat of the Government, passed December 23d, 1788. A similar act, by the Legislature of *Virginia* was passed December 3d, 1789. These acts were approved of by Congress in \*New York assembled on the 16th day of July, 1790. In section 2 of the said act we find recorded: *And be it enacted*, That the President of the United States be authorized to appoint, and by supplying vacancies happening from refusals to act, or other causes, to keep in appointment, as long as may be

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\* The seat of Government was subsequently held at Philadelphia, from whence it was removed in 1800 to Washington.

necessary, three commissioners, who, or any two of whom, shall, under the direction of the President, survey, and, by proper metes and bounds, define and limit a district of territory, under the limitations above mentioned; and the district so defined, limited, and located, shall be deemed the district accepted by this act, for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States.

This was amended in March 3d, 1791, so as to define the *limits* of the District.

The bounds of the district were defined by General Washington, and are as follows :

Beginning at Jones' point, being the upper cape of *Hunting Creek*, in Virginia, and at an angle in the outset of 45 degrees west of the north, and running in a direct line ten miles for the first line; then beginning again at the same Jones' point, and running another direct line at a right angle with the first, across the *Potomac*, ten miles for the second line; then from the terminations of the said first and second lines, running two other direct lines of ten miles each, the one crossing the Eastern Branch, and the other the *Potomac*, and meeting each other in a point. Thus were run the boundary lines of the *District of Columbia*, containing the three cities of *Washington*, *Alexandria* and *Georgetown*. On the 24th of January, 1791, three Commissioners were appointed who proceeded to the task, and bedded the corner stone at Jones' Point the 15th of April of the same year, after which they surveyed and laid out the plan of the city. Deeds of trust were granted by the original proprietors, (Daniel Carroll, Notely Young, David Burns, and

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\* By act of Congress, passed February 3d, 1846, all that portion of the district lying in the county of Alexandria, and south of the *Potomac*, was ceded back to the State of Virginia.

Samuel Davidson,) to Thomas Beal of George, and John M. Gantt, by which they conveyed all their lands within the proposed limits for a Federal City, to be laid out into such streets, squares, parcels and lots as the President of the United States should approve.

One half of this land (exclusive of streets) was thus appropriated to the use of the Government, for which it was to pay twenty-five pounds per acre out of the proceeds of the sales of lots thus received ; the other half remaining in the hands of the original proprietors.

The city, lying on the junction of the Potomac River, and the Anacostia or Eastern Branch, extends about four and a half miles from south-east to north-west, and about two and a half miles from east to south-west. Its circumference is fourteen miles. The aggregate length of the streets is one hundred and ninety-nine miles, and of the avenues sixty-five miles. The whole area of the squares is three thousand and sixteen acres, exclusive of streets, and open spaces, and public reservations. It is divided into squares, by streets running north and south, east and west, which are again intersected by diagonal avenues leading from one section of the city to the other. The streets running north and south are named numerically, those east and west alphabetically, the avenues bear the name of the different states ; width of avenues from 120 to 160 feet, width of streets from 40 to 147 feet. There are several public reservations and open spaces, some of which were caused by the intersection of the streets with the avenues, all of which serve to give a free circulation of air through the city. The *main* and most *business street* is Pennsylvania avenue, running the whole length of the city, from the Eastern Branch to Rock Creek,

(which divides Washington from Georgetown) which is paved, a portion of its length, and the rest macadamized, except the extreme east end. Most of the business of Washington is done between the Capitol and the President's house.

On the first Monday in December, 1800, the seat of the Federal Government was removed to the District of Columbia, at the close of the administration of John Adams, and on the 27th of February, 1801, Congress assumed jurisdiction over the district, under the administration of Thos. Jefferson, of Virginia. In May, 1802, Washington was incorporated as a city, and governed by a Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The first election of the City Councils was held on Monday, June 17th, 1802. The Mayor was appointed by the President, and empowered to appoint to all offices under the Corporation. In 1804, a supplement to the charter was granted, and amended in 1812. In February, 1819, and February, 1820, were two additional acts passed relating to the charter. In May, 1820, a new charter was granted to be in force for 20 years, and now the City of Washington is living under its third charter.

The population of the city in 1840, was : Free whites, 16,843; Free colored, 4,808; Slaves, 1,713; Total, 23,364. In 1850, there is an estimated population of 40,000.

The enterprise of Washington is somewhat limited, owing, probably, to the small commercial advantages it possesses, though ships of a large class may enter its harbor, but there being but little back country, her trade is confined within her own limits ; her support is, in a very great measure, dependent on the appropriations of the Government; notwithstanding, some little enterprise has been attempted. A few years since an extensive

Glass House was in operation, large quantities were made, and considered equal to any in the country. Also, a Brewery, whose malt liquors were held in high reputation, but they have both ceased operations. Some day, (it is to be hoped not far distant) there may be a good business done in coal-dealing between this and Cumberland, by means of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

There are numerous churches and schools, both public and private, in a prosperous condition. The colleges are, the Columbian, situated on a commanding elevation, a little north of the city bounds; this is a Baptist Institution, and the Georgetown college, a Roman Catholic Institution, situated in Georgetown. Students of different denominations enter these colleges. There are a great number of Hotels, several of which are of the largest class; all seem to be well supported. One *Theatre* only is supported here; there are other places of occasional amusement. There are numerous associations and benevolent Institutions, almost too numerous to rehearse; some of which, are, the Colonization, Columbia Typographical, Free Masons, Sons of Temperance, United Brothers, Improved Order of Red Men, and Independent Order of Odd-Fellows.

There are four Banks, one of which is a Savings Bank. There are, also, three Insurance Companies.

The Corporation maintains an Alms-House for the assistance of the poor at an annual expense of near \$5,000.

It might not be uninteresting to note in this little work, some of the Corporation Laws. 1st. Taxes, for which real property may be sold. "Real property, whether improved or unimproved, in the city of Washington, on which one or more years' taxes shall have become due and remain unpaid,

or on which any special tax, imposed by virtue of authority of the provisions of this act, shall have become due and remain unpaid, or so much thereof, not less than a lot, (when the property on which the tax has accrued is not less than that quantity,) as may be necessary to pay any such taxes, with all interest, cost, and charges arising thereon, may be sold at public sale to satisfy the Corporation therefor." The above is an act, amendatory to an act, passed May 15th, 1820, part of section 10, providing for the collection of taxes. Further, that the purchaser of any such property at public sale, shall pay, at the time of sale, the amount of the taxes due on the property so purchased by him, with the amount of the expenses of sale, and he shall pay the residue of the purchase money within ten days after the expiration of two years from the day of sale, to the Register of the City of Washington; and the amount of such residue shall be placed in the city treasury, where it shall remain subject to the order of the original proprietor, or such other person as may be legally entitled to receive the same, and the purchaser shall, on the payment of the whole of the purchase money, receive a title in fee simple in, and to, the property so purchased, under the hand of the *Mayor* and seal of the *Corporation*, which shall be deemed good and valid in law and equity:—*Provided, nevertheless*, That if, within two years from the day of any such sale, or before the purchaser shall have paid the residue of the purchase money as aforesaid, the proprietor of any property which shall have been sold, as aforesaid, shall pay to such purchaser the moneys paid for the taxes and expenses as aforesaid, together with ten per centum per annum as interest thereon, or make a tender thereof, or shall deposite the same

in the hands of the Register of the city, for the use of such purchaser, and subject to his, or legal representatives' order, of which such purchaser shall be immediately informed by the *Register*, he shall be reinstated in his original right and title as if no such sale had been made;—minors, mortgagees, or others having equitable interest in real property so sold, shall be allowed one year after such minor's becoming of full age; or after such mortgagees or others having equitable interests, obtaining possession of, or a decree for the sale of such property, to redeem the property, so sold, from the purchaser, on paying the amount of purchase money so paid therefor, with ten per centum interest thereon, as aforesaid, and all the taxes that have been paid by the purchaser between the day of sale and the period of redemption, with ten per centum interest on the amount of such taxes, and the full value of improvements which have been made, or erected, by the purchaser, while in his possession.

2d. Assessment.—The property of the city is assessed every five years, by three assessors appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, who are sworn to assess it at what they believe to be the cash value of the property at the time of valuation; no new building is to be taxed until the 1st day of January, after its completion, or shall have become useful to the proprietor.

Board of Assessors, to consist of one member from each ward, shall be elected by the qualified voters therein, to serve for two years. The person having the greatest number of legal votes in each ward, shall be duly elected assessor. On the first Monday of May next succeeding the first election of assessors under this act, the said Board, or a majority of the members thereof, shall meet in

the City Hall, and in the presence of the Mayor and Register, shall draw by lot, the names of three members thereof, if the number of wards be seven, or if the number of wards exceed seven, the names of one half, as near as may be, of the members of said Board, and the members whose names shall thus be drawn, shall thereupon cease to be members of said Board, and at the next general election a member shall be elected to serve for two years in each of the wards in which the members so drawn shall have been elected; and at every regular annual election thereafter in such wards as the time of the assessors is about to expire, an assessor shall be elected to serve for two years. A Board of Appeal has also been established.

3d. A collector of taxes is elected like the other officers of the Corporation; is required to give bonds of \$15,000 with sureties, to be approved by the Mayor, for the faithful performance of his duty; he is required to furnish a detailed bill of taxes to all tax payers, and to deposite monthly, the amounts collected by him in the Bank of Washington.

Dogs.—Every owner of a dog is required to obtain a license for the privilege of keeping such dog, for which he must pay two dollars for each male, and five dollars for each female, annually, under a penalty of not more than ten dollars for each offence. Each dog must have a collar around his neck with its owner's name, and if found going at large without one, he is liable to be killed. Dogs are prohibited following their masters to market, at any season of the year, under a penalty of three dollars.

All free persons of color, are required to exhibit satisfactory evidence of their freedom to the Register, under the penalty of six dollars for every

month they shall neglect to do so. If found playing at cards, dice, or other game of immoral tendency, or shall be present when such game is playing, shall be fined, not exceeding ten dollars. Not to have a dance, ball or assembly at his or her house without a permit from the Mayor, under a penalty of ten dollars. Not to be seen in the street after ten o'clock at night without a pass from some respectable citizen or magistrate, unless engaged in driving carriage, &c. If found drunk, or guilty of obscenity, swearing, &c., to be fined three dollars for each offence, and on refusing to pay, or securing to be paid the fine, to be sent to the work-house until the fine be paid, not exceeding six months. If unable to establish their title to freedom, to be committed to jail as absconding slaves. Power is invested in the Mayor to discharge from imprisonment when evidence is furnished of their title to freedom.

Slaves.—Slaves cannot reside in the city unless owned by a resident, or hired by a non-resident to an inhabitant, for which he must pay a tax of twenty dollars per annum, if a male, and two dollars if a female; under a penalty of twenty dollars for each neglect. Slaves found offending against the laws, to be punished *corporally* with *stripes*, not exceeding thirty-nine.

Gaming.—All gaming tables, except licensed billiards, are forbidden, under a penalty of fifty dollars for every day such table, or device shall be kept. No person is allowed any kind of gaming in his or her house, under a penalty of fifty dollars for each offence; and if a tavern or ordinary, they shall forfeit their license.

Hawkers and Pedlars, not to sell without license, articles manufactured out of the city, for the privilege of which he shall pay \$50, except perishable articles, *which may be sold without license*.

Hogs,—No hogs are allowed to run in the street without a liability of being taken up for the benefit of the Ahns-house.

There are laws regulating Hackney Carriages and fare from point to point; no fare over 25 cents, (legally) from the Capitol square to any point between it and 17th street, west. Greenleaf's point, south, and the Navy Yard, east, except in case of detention of the carriage of more than five minutes, when an additional sum may be charged. A copy of regulations relating to Hackney Carriages, &c., are required to be hung up in carriages, taverns, ordinaries, &c., for the benefit of travelers, under a penalty of \$6, for every week so neglected. No driver has a right to refuse to carry at the above rates, under a penalty of forfeiture and fine of ten dollars.

*Omnibus fare*, from the Capitol to Georgetown, Navy Yard, and Steamboat landing,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents.

Steamboat fare to Alexandria,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents.

## SINGULAR DOCUMENTS.

The following very singular documents we copy verbatim, from Watterson's Guide to Washington, viz:

“These are extracts from old land patents, dated as far back as 1663 and 1681, and will be found curious and interesting. They show that the classical name of *Tiber*\* was given to the stream which now bears that name, and which was afterwards occasionally called *Goose Creek*; and that a portion of the site of the city was called Rome, both given, I have no doubt, by one of the patentees, from the circumstance of his bearing the name of Pope.”

“June the 5th, 1663—Layd out for Francis Pope of this province, gentleman, a parcel of land in Charles county, called Room, lying on the east side of the Anacostian river beginning at a marked oak standing by the river side the bounded tree of Captain Robert Troop, and running north by the river for breadth, the length of two hundred perches to a bounded oak, standing at the mouth of a bay or inlett called *Tiber*, bounding on the north by the said let and line drawn east for the length of three hundred and twenty perches to a bounded oak standing in the woods on the east with a line drawn south from the end of the former line untill you meet with the exterior bounded tree of Robert Troop called Scotland Yard on the south with the said land, on the west with the said river, containing and now laid out for four hundred acres more or less.”

“June 5th, 1663—Layd out for Captain Robert

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\* *Tiber* is a small stream that makes through near the heart of the city.

Troop of this province a parcell of land in Charles county called Scotland Yard lying on the east side of the Anacostia river, beginning at a bounded hickory standing by the water side and running north by the river for breadth the length of two hundred and fifty perches to a bounded oak, bounding on the north with a line drawn east into the woods for the length of three hundred and twenty perches to a bounded oak on the east with a line drawn south from the end of the former line until you intersect a parallel line drawn from the first bounded hickory on the south with the said parallel on the west with the said river containing and now laid out for five hundred acres more or less."

"By another instrument of writing, dated 5th of July, 1681, a patent was granted to one William Langworth for a tract of land lying in Charles county, containing six hundred acres, which had been taken up by his father, and which is thus bounded."

"The Widows Mite lying on the east side of the Anacostin river on the north side of a branch or inlett in the said river called *Tyber*. Beginning at a bounded cedar standing upon a point and running east north east for breadth up the said inlett to a bounded oak, the bound tree of Richard Pinner, for the length of one hundred ninety-two perches bounding in the east with a line drawn north from the said oake for the length of five hundred perches to a bounded oake on the north with a line drawn west from the end of the former line, the length of one hundred ninety-two perches, to a bounded oake that intersects a parallel line drawn south to the first bounded cedar on the west with the said parallel on the south with the said inlett, containing and now laid out for six hundred acres more or less according to the certificat of survey thereof

taken and returned into the land office of the city of St. Maries, bearing date the tenth day of October one thousand six hundred sixty seven, and there remaining upon record together with all rights profits benefits and privileges thereunto belonging (Royale mines excepted.”)

“This would appear to have been the farm afterwards owned by David Burns, one of the original proprietors of the lands now occupied by the city. At that time this portion of Maryland was in Charles county; its capital the city of St. Mary’s, and that part of the Potomac which bounds Washington to the west, was called Anacostia, the name afterwards given to the Eastern Branch.”

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THE CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES is a lofty and magnificent edifice, located on an elevation, some 80 feet above the tide water of the Potomac river. (The stranger, in approaching the city by railroad, at a distance of four miles first sees the lofty dome rising like a pyramid before him.) It is built of *free stone*, assimilated to *Corinthian* proportions. Its north wing was commenced by laying the corner stone, in presence of General Washington, September 18, 1793. The foundation of the main body was commenced March 24, 1818. The length of the front is 352 feet, depth of wings 121 feet, east projection and steps 65 feet, west projection and steps 83 feet, and covers  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres, exclusive of its circular enclosure or terrace. The height of the wings to the top of the balustrade is 70 feet, and to the top of the dome of the main body 140 feet. It was finished in 1827 at a cost of \$1,746,718. It is now proportionably complete, but Congress has strong talk of altering and enlarging it, that it may be more commodious for the transaction of public business, and when done, it will be one of (if not

the largest building) for a similar purpose in the world, indeed, it is said now, to present the most *splendid* and imposing architectural mass in this or any other country for the same object. The eastern portico gives to this edifice a very grand and striking appearance, it extends the whole front of the centre or main body; the colonnade consists of 24 massive Corinthian columns of stone, thirty feet high, and girth 9 feet 3 inches, and in fine taste, beautifully ornamented at the top with carved stone. The projection over the portico is ornamented with an allegorical group in *alto relievo*, designed by John Quincy Adams, and executed by Signor Persico. The principal figure, elevated on a platform, represents the *Genius* of America, holding in her right hand a shield, with the letters U. S. A. inscribed on it, behind is a spear, her head is crowned with a star, and turned towards Hope, who stands on her left, with her elbow resting on the stock of an *anchor*, and holding in her hand a part of her drapery. America directs the attention of Hope to Justice standing on her right, holding the Constitution of the United States in her right hand, and in her left the scales. Near her is an Eagle in the act of winging his flight at the command of America. All these figures are colossal, and wrought in sand-stone, and are beautiful representations of *Genius* ruling Industry, of *Hope* pointing to *Heaven*, and *Justice* weighing the truth. Over the door to the entrance of the grand Rotundo, from the floor of this portico are two beautiful figures in stone, in the attitude of crowning with laurel, the *bust* of Washington. On each side of the entrance to the Rotundo is a figure of marble, one representing War and the other Peace. Peace occupies a niche on the left of the entrance, and holds in her left hand a fruit-bearing branch of the olive, ex-

tending it towards War, while with her right she gracefully points to her bosom, thus indicating her sympathy for mankind ; her countenance beams with sweetness and kindness ; her form rests easily on her left foot, her right knee being a little contracted, and the whole figure beautifully draped. War, occupies a niche on the opposite side, in the attitude of listening to Peace ; his head is inclined towards his companion, one hand rests on his sword, and the other with his form, leans on his shield. He stands with firmness, yet at his ease, and his costume is that of the ancient Roman. The *toga* is thrown over his shoulders, with a *kirtle* extending to his knees, the border of which, with his belt, is richly ornamented with the symbols of the victims offered to him in sacrifice ; his countenance is firm and sedate, without indication of rage or fury ; his whole form exhibits great strength, physical power, and activity. Both figures are original, and intended to represent the idea of the people of the United States on the conditions of peace and war. These figures were all executed by Persico, by order of Congress. The south side of the staircase to the portico is ornamented with a group representing the discovery of America ; another is now being executed in Italy, by Persico, to adorn the north case, representing the early settlement of this country. The west front of the Capitol is nearly as gorgeous and imposing as the east, but different. It overlooks the city from the brow of the hill on which it stands. Thus we end the external description of this noble edifice, the Capitol of our country. It is surrounded by beautifully ornamented grounds, comprising in all, 30 acres, the whole enclosed with a substantial wrought iron fence. Total cost of building and grounds, \$2,690,459 21.

The Representatives' hall is 90 feet long, 62 wide, 60 high; it is studded with 26 large columns of Potomac marble, or pudding stone, at a cost of \$8,000 each. Over the speaker's desk is a colossal figure of Liberty; at her feet, is the American Eagle, (sculptured in stone) in the act of taking flight. Over the main entrance to the hall, stands a beautiful statue in marble, representing History on the Car of *time*, recording the events of the nation.

The Senate chamber, is 75 feet long, 45 feet wide, and 45 feet high. This is also studded with 32 small columns of Potomac marble.

Both of these rooms are semi-circular, representing somewhat an ancient *Grecian Theatre*.

Congressional Library Room, 92 feet long by 34 wide, and 36 high.

Supreme Court Room, 45 feet diameter, 20 high.

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The PRESIDENT's, or White House, is one mile west of the Capitol, and located on an eminence 44 feet above tide water of the Potomac; it is built of white free-stone, and of Ionic proportions. The corner stone was laid on the 18th September, 1793; is 180 feet long; breadth in centre, 120 feet; ends, 80 feet; two stories high above the *base*; of lofty dimensions. The north front is ornamented with a portico of four Ionic columns in front, (where footmen enter from the side-walk) and a projection of three columns; this intercolumnization is for carriages to drive into and place visitors under shelter. In front is an ornamented yard of semi-circular form, at each corner of which are two iron gateways, one for carriages, the other for footmen. The south side is ornamented with a semi-circular projecting colonnade of six columns, standing on a rusticated basement of stone, and is entered by two flights of winding steps. This front overlooks the

promenade garden, which is beautifully ornamented with three artificial hillocks, forest trees, garden shrubbery, various flowers, blooming from early spring to late fall, and serpentine walks. The grounds of this mansion are surrounded, on the north by an iron fence ; on the west, by the War and Navy Departments ; on the south, by a sexangular stone wall ; and on the east, by the Treasury and State Departments, and contain about 20 acres.

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\* **THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.**—This edifice, like the General Post Office, was designed and erected by Robert Mills, also the remodeling and erection of the Patent Office. The design is *Grecian Ionic*. Corner stone was laid September 7, 1836 ; length of present building, 336 feet, (when completed, 500,) depth at centre, 190 feet, which takes in a projection in the rear of 120 feet, leaving the width of the main building, 70 feet, 65 feet high ; colonnade, whole length of building, 15 feet wide ; built of red free, or *Seneca* stone ; the base is of granite, having two flights of granite steps, leading to the floor of colonnade, which has 31 large fluted columns, in style of the temple of Minerva Policos at Athens. (The projection at the west end is terminated with 6 fluted columns.) The whole building contains 150 apartments. It is the intention of Congress, some future time, to add two wings to this edifice, each one the length of the rear projection, together with the main body, making 190 feet, length of wings.

The General Land Office occupies the third story of this building.

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\* On this site (which is on reserve, No. 1, like the State, War and Navy, is near the President's house,) formerly stood an ordinary brick building occupied for the same purpose. It was destroyed by fire March 31, 1833.

It is a fire-proof edifice, and built at a cost of \$640,000.

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\*THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, located on E street, running from 7 to 8th, west, is of Grecian architecture, built of New York marble. It was commenced May 25, 1839. Its length from east to west is 204 feet ; the wings on 7 and 8th streets are each 102 feet ; depth of centre 60, forming a hollow square in the rear of 100 feet in width, built of granite. The centre of each front is ornamented with 4 fluted columns of marble. The windows of the 2nd story come down to the floor, and each floor contains 26 rooms, all arched and made fire-proof. The building proper, rests on a rustic basement, making 3 stories. It is considered a beautiful edifice of the Grecian order, and shews well at a distance. Its cost was \$450,000.

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STATE DEPARTMENT, WAR DEPARTMENT, AND NAVY DEPARTMENT, are but ordinary brick buildings, two stories above the basement, which is built of free-stone, fire proof ; the dimensions of each building are nearly the same, that of the War Department being 130 feet long by 60 wide. The War and State both have a portico, facing north,

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\*The old building on this site was commenced for a city Hotel, but never completed ; soon after the late war, this building was occupied by the two houses of Congress for a short time, in consequence of the destruction of the Capitol by the British ; and afterwards by the General and City Post Offices, Patent Office and Library of Congress. The Capitol being rebuilt, the Library was removed to it in 1818. The General Post Office continued to occupy it till its destruction by fire December 15th, 1836, after which the present marble fire-proof edifice was erected,

of the Ionic order. In each also, there is a hall running the whole length of the buildings, having offices on each side for the accommodation of Clerks of the several Departments, and are all located near the President's house, and surrounded by neat iron fences, the grounds of which are ornamented with numerous shade trees.

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**THE PATENT OFFICE.**—The corner stone of this noble edifice was laid September 7, 1836, and stands on a reservation between 7th and 9th streets, west, and F and G streets, north. The body building as it now is, is 270 feet long; breadth of centre 127 feet; width at the ends, 70 feet, two lofty stories high above the basement, built of free-stone; the base of rough granite. The edifice is entered from F street by a flight of 28 steps leading to the broad platform of the portico, which is studded with double rows of fluted columns, 16 in number, of the Doric order, 18 feet in circumference. The spaces between the windows are ornamented with pilasters of the same material as the Doric pillars, (free-stone.) The roof is very flat, and covered with copper; from its top a most splendid panoramic view presents itself. It was built at a cost of \$417,000. We enter the eastern door of the basement into a broad passage running the whole length of the building, through which large wheeled machines may be drawn. On each side of this passage are rooms for the deposit of fuel and heavy models, &c. In the centre commences a semi-circular stone staircase, consisting of two flights of steps, which continue to the upper story. The floor, as we enter from the portico is pretty much after the pattern of the basement floor, where are stored smaller patent models in the *west* half, while the *east* is occupied as offices for the Commis-

sioner of Patents, Clerks, Examiners, Draughtsmen, &c. The models in the west half are neatly arranged in glass cases, so as to be examined ; but the most magnificent room in this building is the upper story, which was intended for an exhibition room of the various specimens of American manufacture. The room takes up the whole building, and a better one for this object, probably could not be constructed. Standing at one extremity, and looking down to the other, through a long vista, 265 feet, the view is beautiful indeed. On each side is a double row of stone columns, 48 in number, supporting a succession of brick arches, finely proportioned. The floor is paved with tessellated stone. The columns and stone-work are painted white. The apartment is well lighted from the sides, ends, and by means of a lantern window in the roof. At present, *this* hall is occupied by the National Institute, (for the *want* of one devoted to its purposes) permitted by the Secretary of State, as the depository of *Zoological, Botanical, Mineralogical* and other specimens, most of which were sent in by the United States Exploring Expedition. The specimens of curiosity are generally enclosed in glass cases, a row of *high* cases each side, and one of *table* cases down the centre. On the south side, near the centre of this hall stands a case, part of which is occupied for the deposite of curiosities which once belonged to General Washington. The coat, vest and pants he wore when he resigned his commission at *Annapolis*, December 23, 1783.—Sword, spurs, cooking utensils, tea set, medicine and camp chest, and a part of the tent that covered his head from the pelting storm ; also, some of his old family furniture ; and there is a gold headed cane which was presented him by the good and patriotic Dr. Franklin.

At the east end of this hall stands the identical press that Franklin worked on, when a journeyman printer. Thus the hall is rendered a place of great curiosity and usefulness to all seekers after knowledge; it is of free access to all without charge. This has already become the nucleus of a large and magnificent National Museum.

It has been said by a traveling lecturer, that this edifice approaches the nearest to Grecian architecture of any other building in America.

There is now in course of erection two wings of marble, one on 7th street, the other on 9th street, running from F to G; in time another will be erected on G street, to intersect with the ends of the two wings, leaving a court in the centre.

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE derives its name from James Smithson, Esq., of England, who made a conditional will of his property, viz:

He directed that the income of his property (after deducting some small annuities) should be paid to his *nephew*, Henry James Hungerford, during his life, and that the property itself should descend to his children, if he had any, absolutely and forever. "In case of the death of my said nephew without leaving a child, or children, or of the death of the child or children he may have had, under the age of 21 years, or intestate, I then bequeath the whole of my property (subject to the annuity of 100 pounds to John Fitall, and for the security and payment of which, I mean stock to remain in this country,) to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the *Smithsonian Institution*, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Such, are said to be the words of the will, and the

only words of *Smithson* which have come to us relating to this remarkable bequest. He was never in America, had no friends or acquaintances here, and no sentence among his papers, no recollection of his associates shows that he made our country an object of special thought and study.

We can only suppose it was to perpetuate his name as a friend of science and learning, that he made this noble and very grateful bequest. He was son of the Duke of Northumberland, was educated at Oxford. In 1787, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, (the year after taking his Master's degree.) To the "Philosophical Transactions," he contributed eight valuable papers. He was an associate of most of the eminent men of science in his day. He devoted much of his attention to the study of *Chemistry*. He was amiable, and of unassuming manners. He died at Genoa, June 27th, 1829; at the time of his death, his property amounted to about 120,000 pounds sterling.

Young Hungerford died at Pisa, June 5th, 1835, without issue, and thus the claim of the United States was made good, the particulars were communicated to our government, and Congress passed a bill, authorizing the President to appoint an agent to prosecute, in the Court of Chancery of England, the right of the United States to the bequest.

The Hon. Richard Rush, of Philadelphia, was appointed agent for the United States. He proceeded to England: instituted a suit, in the Court of Chancery, obtained the fund, and paid it into the Treasury of the United States in Sept. 1838. Thus a period of about nine years had elapsed since the death of the donor. At this time the fund amounted to \$515,169. Aug. 10th, 1846,

Congress passed an act establishing the Smithsonian Institution.

This edifice is a noble structure in the later Norman or Lombard style, built on the reserve called the mall, between 7th and 12th streets west, and B street north and B street south, about nineteen acres devoted to its purpose. (It is to be hoped that all the reserve between 7th and 14th streets, will yet be assigned to it, in order to extend the usefulness of the Institution.) The corner stone was laid May 1st, 1847. It consists of a centre and two wings united by connecting ranges. Its whole length is 447 feet, and greatest breadth 132 feet. It is adorned with nine towers, the highest of which is 145 feet.

The central portion of the building on the first floor contains a Library room 134 feet by 50, divided into alcoves, which are crossed by galleries, and a hall for philosophical apparatus 65 feet by 50. The second story contains the Museum, 200 feet by 50. This is divided into three aisles, the central being 40 feet high. The eastern wing is mostly devoted to the lecture room, and capable of accommodating from 800 to 1000 persons.

The eastern range contains laboratories, workshops, rooms for apparatus, offices, &c.

The *western wing* and *range* contain galleries of art, one of which will be used as a reading room. Beneath, are rooms for unpacking books, and other purposes of the Library. When finished, and properly decorated, it will present a very gorgeous and massive edifice of red seneca or free-stone. The grounds will be decorated with numerous shade and ornamental trees, shrubbery, &c.

The whirling wheels are to the Chariot hung,  
Let Smithson's name throughout the land be rung.

THE UNITED STATES OBSERVATORY.—Situated on reservation No. 4 between 23d and 25th streets west, near Georgetown, on what is called Camp-hill, near a mile west of the President's House, is well worthy of a visit. This institution comes under naval order, and belongs to the Navy Department. From this department ships and other vessels are supplied with Nautical Instruments and books, also Maritime Charts, when about starting out on a voyage at sea. Land surveying instruments are also kept here. This building was erected under President Tyler's administration. From the top is afforded a view of great extent and interest, unobstructed, embracing the City of Washington, Georgetown, the Potomac River, and the surrounding country for many miles. Washington Fort, 16 miles below on the Maryland shore, is very distinctly seen from this place. The grounds are enclosed with a substantial brick wall, and are to be beautifully ornamented. The Building is 50 feet square, two stories high, surmounted with a moveable dome, which covers the large *Equatorial Telescope*. There are east, south, and west wings, which contain the Meridian and Prime Vertical Instruments. It is at present under the superintendence of Lieut. Maury.

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THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL MONUMENT—Is situated on reservation No. 3 west of 15th street, on what is called the western point of the Island south of the Washington canal. It commands a good view of the Potomac above and below. The corner stone was laid July 4th, 1848, with appropriate honors. The *base* of the *pantheon* is to be 250 feet in *diameter*. The height, 100 feet. Height

of obelisk 500 feet. The base is of granite, the obelisk of white marble from Maryland, near Baltimore. It is a square column. It will be ascended by a flight of spiral steps on the inside, where, in going up, may be seen the specimens of sculptured stone, from every State in the Union, which grace its inner surface. Some of these stone blocks are donations from States, having inscribed on them as mottoes, the seals of their State; others are donations from Societies, and individuals, bearing various mottoes; when done, the *pantheon* may be ascended with horse and vehicle.

It is well Congress has seen fit to erect a Monument to the memory of Washington!

“Blest Washington! is the grateful sound,  
From age to age, the world will echo round!  
And every future tongue that speaks his name,  
Will brighten the hours with his growing fame.”

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WHAT is now called the CONGRESSIONAL BURIAL GROUND, was originally called the “Washington Parish Burial Ground,” and first projected in 1807, by a number of the eastern section residents, of various denominations. After the amount expended in the purchase of the land, and the improvements which had been made, was re-im-bursed, the cemetery was placed under the direction of the vestry of Christ church. It is situated about a mile and a half east of the Capitol, and contains about ten acres surrounded by a brick wall, with three gateways. The Cemetery is laid out with avenues and walks, the sides of which, with the family enclosures, are ornamented with trees and shrubbery; here, is the *tree of heaven*, the *weeping willow*, the *elm*, the *cedar*, and the *fir*, the *arbor vitæ*, *calicanthus*, *myrtle*, and the *rose*.

Many a mouldering heap may be seen (where repose the bodies of the dead) over which the green grass grows, and trees and shrubbery spring into verdant beauty. Here lies the Statesman, the Orator, and Warrior ; here also repose the merchant, the mechanic, and the peasant ; here repose the illustrious and the obscure ; and all that beauty or worth ever gave, alike are crumbling into dust, and mingling with the common element from which they sprang.

“ How populous, how vital is the grave !  
This is creation’s melancholy vault ;  
The vale funereal, the sad cypress gloom,  
The land of apparitions, empty shades ;  
All, all on earth is shadow.”

In this cemetery, and ranging in lines, are four rows of monuments, built of white free-stone, nearly a square block, with four pannels each, on one of which is engraved, in black letters, the name, age, period of death &c., of the deceased, and topped with a low pyramid, the whole painted white. These are erected by the Government to the memory of such members of Congress as have died, and been buried at the public expense.

Congress has erected a public receiving vault, on one of the main avenues, for the reception of the dead for whom graves might not have been prepared : its front is built of free-stone, the door of iron, a beautiful iron fence surrounds it, the area within the railing is ornamented with beautiful shrubs, and evergreens. The bodies in this vault, may be kept for two months, when they must be removed. This is a beautiful spot and has been made very romantic by artificial means. It commands a fine view of the surrounding country, and of the river Anacostia, which flows at a short dis-

tance east of it ; and, in a calm summer's evening, when the water is still and placid, reflects from its polished bosom the beautiful landscape from the opposite shore. Here also, are several splendid and costly monuments erected to the memory of distinguished men—men, high in authority ; but,

“The paths of glory lead but to the grave.”

A writer has said, “here rests, too, the body of the Indian warrior, whose last wish was that the big guns might be fired over him, to waft his spirit in triumph to the region where wander the souls of his fathers.” Pushmataha's wish was gratified, and a tomb has been erected over his body to indicate that he was the friend of the white man. This brave son of the forest died as he had lived—the lofty and fearless warrior ; and like Outallassi, he

“Would not stain with grief  
The death-song of an Indian chief.”

All, all finally will find a resting place in the bosom of our common mother *earth*.

What a sure leveler is death ! but,

“Were death denied, poor man would live in vain ;  
Were death denied, to live would not be life ;  
Were death denied, e'en fools would wish to die.”

We feel, in looking around us that all is indeed vanity ; and that soon, even amid our dreams, and shadows, (which are but the realities of life) we must quit all that renders life desirable, and sinking into the grave, become a kneaded clod, a mouldering heap of ashes. Thus man in all his greatness, glory and power, is but a mass of living corruption—meteors, that blaze for a moment, and then disappear forever in the long night of death ; to this “savor all must come at last.” The grave is man's last resting place ; there terminate the joys and sorrows, the hopes and fears, the cares and pleasures of his earthly existence.

But one consolation still remains—

“An angel’s arm can’t snatch me from the grave,  
Legions of angels can’t confine me there.”

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THE other public places are the *Navy Yard* and *Arsenal*; the former is about one mile east of the Capitol, on the Anacostia branch. Here, *chains* and *anchors* are made for the largest class of Government ships; and lately there has been erected a foundry where may be moulded the heaviest castings necessary for Government use. The latter is about one mile south of the Capitol on Greenleaf’s Point. It is surrounded on three sides by water, and presenting a fine appearance from the opposite shores; here are located buildings for offices, workshops, store-houses, magazines, &c.

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THE *PENITENTIARY*, for the lawless, adjoining the *Arsenal* grounds, is a brick building, containing cells for convicts, four tiers high, of free stone, with strong iron doors. The dwelling apartment joins the main building and fronts east, looking out over the *Potomac river*, the premises are surrounded (with the exception of the front door) with high brick walls.

Just in the gate,  
Revengeful care, and sullen sorrows dwell,  
Deep was the crime, and downward is the flight  
Of those whose *recess*, a gloomy wall defends.

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Public buildings belonging to the City are, first, the

*CITY HALL*, which stands on an eminence at the junction of Indiana and Louisiana avenues, reserve

No. 9, and called Judiciary square. This is a large commodious edifice of excellent proportions, of the Roman Ionic order: when finished, will be about 245 feet in length from east to west; the wings which form two projections each side of the main building 166 feet from north to south, 47 feet in height, length of granite pavement between the wings, front side, 150 feet, width 61 feet, number of Ionic columns which stud the portico, 6 front, 3 deep, making 18: on the north side is to be a semi-circular colonnade with 20 columns, and a flight of semi-circular steps leading to the entrance. For beauty and architectural design, it cannot be said but that the citizens of Washington have one building, over which they can boast with exultation, not inferior to any in the City.

Then there is the CITY POST OFFICE, on 7th street, between E and F—

The County JAIL, on reserve No. 9, built in the Gothic style of architecture, three stories high, and stained to resemble granite; four *Markets*, and six *Engine houses*.

OLD FELLOWS' HALL, situated on 7th street, is a large and convenient edifice, being three stories high; it has two large stores in the basement story, a hall on the 2d floor, the whole bigness of the building, being 40 feet front, 90 feet deep. On the 3d floor, are halls for the meeting of the several *Lodges*, whose property it is.

Odd Fellowship was first introduced into the United States, at Baltimore April 19, 1819. The first Lodge was named Washington Lodge, in honor of the Father of American liberty; its wheels have rolled from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

Friendship! is man's best friend,  
Love! will open arms extend,  
And truth! like friendship and like  
Love, will ever faithful prove.

## APPENDIX.

### VICINITY OF WASHINGTON.

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GEORGETOWN—three miles west of the Capitol, is at the head of navigation on the Potomac river, and a port of entry; formerly a large amount of business was done there in the Flour trade; at present it is very limited; they have one large cotton factory; one iron foundry and rolling mill (the first I think, established in this country.) Here is a Roman Catholic College and *Nunnery*, and Observatory attached, all of which command a fine view of the surrounding country, and lately has been erected a very fine, large City Hall. From Georgetown heights, we have an unobstructed view of the Ohio and Chesapeake Canal, the aqueduct and bridge across the Potomac, the city of Washington and the country around, which lays like an amphitheatre, hemed with a circle of mountains, and the meanderings of the beautiful Potomac as far as the eye can reach, as its waters are wending its way to the Chesapeake Bay.

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ALEXANDRIA is located eight miles south of the Capitol on Virginia shore, and was once a place of considerable importance for its commercial advantages; the river allowing the largest class of vessels to enter her harbor. The river has been much damaged by washings from above.

An impetus has recently been made to revive the

trade of this once flourishing place, by clearing out the *canal*, and starting a rail-road to run from Alexandria to ———, forming a direct communication with the *west*, and northern Lakes. It was here that General Braddock, in 1755, organized his army for the west, when he was sent out by the British government with a body of troops to act against the French on the Ohio. He was joined by the provincials under \*Major Washington; but he held them in utter contempt, and would not listen to the advice of their sagacious leader respecting the mode of carrying on a war in the woods of America. He moved on heedlessly until July 9th, when in the woods the war-whoop assailed their ears. The enemy, unseen, poured a heavy fire on their flank; the soldiery were thrown into confusion; and, instead of trying to dislodge them from their covert, Braddock, as if engaged with a regular army, sought to form his men again, in doing which, he was mortally wounded; the regular troops turned and fled; the provincials formed the rear and saved them from destruction. Washington displayed the coolness and skill of a veteran commander.

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MOUNT VERNON—eight miles below Alexandria on the Virginia shore, was the home of Washington; there he lived and there he died; and his *remains* are there deposited in the family tomb. It is a delightful spot, commanding a fine view of the Potomac and opposite shore. The homestead is a little model of a family villa, beautifully laid out. The coffins

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\* It will be recollected that George Washington was about nineteen years old when he entered the army; at this time he was about twenty-three.

of both General *Washington* and *consort* are to be seen through the double iron gate-way which looks within the front part of the vault. Over the gate is inscribed the following words, and situation of the same.

WITHIN THIS ENCLOSURE  
RESTS  
THE REMAINS OF  
GEN'L GEORGE WASHINGTON.



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